



# 2020 Annual Highlights

## Thanks for helping us soar!

Dear Friend of Hawk Ridge,

**This has been a rough year for all of us, but THANKS to our wonderful donors, awesome staff, and beautiful birds, we had a great year at Hawk Ridge.** Here are some highlights of how your support helped in 2020:

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2020-21

Andrew Streit  
*Chair*

Collin Zimmerman  
*Treasurer*

Sean Copeland  
*Secretary*

Monica Bryand

Tessa Enroth

Matti Erpestad

Matt Etterson

Ken Gilbertson

Robin Maxwell-Pestalozzi

Bruce Munson

Jim Sanders

Janelle Long  
*Executive Director*

Hawk Ridge Bird Observatory is a 501(c)(3) Non-profit organization

**Bird Migration Count Research** – A “rough” year was had in more than one way – and this was a good way with record numbers of Rough-legged Hawks counted this fall! We broke both the daily & season high counts. Both spring and fall counts were able to be conducted this year with a total of 82,000 raptors of 17 different species and over 185,000 other migrating birds of over 170 species counted in 2020! Over 3.1 million raptors have been counted at Hawk Ridge since the standardized count started in fall 1972! We’ll be back in action for the Spring Count starting again on March 1<sup>st</sup>!



**Bird Banding Research** – Hawk Ridge is the largest raptor banding operation in the country and completed its 49th fall season! Over 4000 raptors (including 1900+ owls) were banded in fall 2020. Highlights included recaptured Eastern Screech Owl (banded as a first record at Hawk Ridge in 2018), banded Great Gray Owl & Golden Eagle, record season highs for Rough-legged Hawks & Long-eared Owls, and multiple research projects. We also continued passerine banding at Hawk Ridge, including the volunteer-led summer MAPS research project.

**Education** – We created a safe set up to still connect with thousands of visitors this fall season in person at Hawk Ridge and virtually. We were able to teach a few small group education programs, hold some live bird demonstrations, and sell limited merchandise at Hawk Ridge and online (not surprising – Hawk Ridge masks were our #1 seller!). We look forward to continuing to share the wonder of birds, migration, and our conservation work!



**Stewardship & Volunteers** – While we couldn’t have our regular volunteer program in operation this year, we still had several wonderful volunteers helping behind the scenes and at the Ridge. Volunteer projects included helping with office work, invasive species management, cleaning up the reserve (trails, litter), and working on site improvements.

**Events** – Due to the pandemic, we were unable to hold our Hawk Weekend Festival and other events. We were able to hold a few virtual programs and we plan to hold more in 2021. We are also looking forward to **celebrating our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2022, so stay tuned for details on that!**

**Traineeship Program & Graduate Research** – We taught 4 new research trainees professional field experience skills this fall within our count and banding program areas. We also worked with 4 University of MN Duluth grad students (including 2 former trainees) on their graduate research projects in collaboration with Hawk Ridge.



You can also find out more on how your gift can help Hawk Ridge soar by reading our booklet at [www.hawkridge.org/support/donate/](http://www.hawkridge.org/support/donate/). We are counting on your continued support!

**Thank YOU and Happy Holidays!**

Janelle Long  
Executive Director

Andrew Streit  
Board Chair